



The Ethical Society of Police - E.S.O.P.

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Murder is the ultimate violent act. The decision of Circuit Judge Michael Noble to sentence Justin Mathews to roughly five years, with a possible release at age twenty-one, is unacceptable for an armed carjacking and subsequent murder. We don't condone light sentences for murder for anyone under these circumstances.

We understand there has to be a balance with sentencing juveniles and rehabilitation, especially in light of the disproportionate sentences of minorities; however, families who have to go on deserve better than this sentence.

When Sergeant Ralph Harper was a sergeant with the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department, he mentored officers, demanded officers around him be fair and disciplined in our actions. The President of the Ethical Society of Police was one of those he mentored.

The sentence today is disheartening and saddens many of us in the Ethical Society of Police.

Rest in Peace, Sgt. Harper. Our prayers are with his family.

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